LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

I. The local, state and national importance of Carbondale City Hall regarded as an architectural phenomenon

Carbondale City Hall is an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival building. It was designed by Truman I. Lacey of Binghamton, New York, and erected, under his direction, by W. D. Stevens of Binghamton, New York, and George H. Tryon of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, in the period 1892-1894. Although it has not yet been determined if Truman I. Lacey studied directly with Henry Hobson Richardson, it is clear from the design of Carbondale City Hall that Truman I. Lacey so wholeheartedly adopted the architectural precepts of Henry Hobson Richardson, one of the most important architects in America during the final decades of the nineteenth century, that Carbondale City Hall might easily be mistaken for one of the buildings designed by Richardson himself.

All of the following qualities of Carbondale City Hall are characteristics of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of building: a beautifully proportioned and monumental whole that is perfectly situated in space; masonry construction; an asymmetrical and varied facade; a massive square corner tower plus turrets, gables, and dormers; a massive sense of walls; a repetitive use of Romanesque arches throughout; a massive half-circle entrance arch; a richly textured surface.

Carbondale City Hall is, therefore, a highly important building in the history of nineteenth-century Pennsylvania and nineteenth-century America. It is important on the state and local levels not only because of the fact that it was designed by a local architect and constructed by local builders, but also because of the fact that it is constructed of Pennsylvania-made brick and Pennsylvania bluestone. It is important on the national level for two reasons: (1) it is an excellent example of a building in the Romanesque Revival style, a nationally important style of building during the final decades of the nineteenth century; (2) it possesses a very high degree of integrity: Carbondale City Hall appears today as it did when it was completed in 1894, its wholeness has not been impaired in any way.

II. The local and state importance of Carbondale City Hall regarded as an historical phenomenon

Carbondale City Hall has been the home of the executive and legislative branches of the government of the city of Carbondale since 1894 and is, therefore, a highly important building in the history of the city of Carbondale.

Part of Carbondale City Hall (the two-story wing at the back of the building) was formerly an autonomous building: the brick Court House that was erected immediately following the fire on February 14, 1869, in which Carbondale's first Court House (a wooden building) was burned to the ground. When Truman I. Lacey designed present-day Carbondale City Hall, he incorporated the brick Court House that was situated on the lot where the present-day Carbondale City Hall stands into his